

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-03 INR-07 L-02 ACDA-05

NSAE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 USIA-06 TRSE-00 SAJ-01

DODE-00 H-02 NSC-05 SS-15 SCCT-01 SY-05 USSS-00 AID-05

OMB-01 COME-00 EB-07 LAB-04 SIL-01 CU-02 /099 W

----- 035486

R 060635Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY MADRID

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1738

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION GENEVA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, PINT, SP

SUBJECT: MAY DAY IN SPAIN

REF: A. MADRID 2964

B. MADRID 2635

SUMMARY: MAY 1 AND SUCCEEDING DAYS WERE RELATIVELY CALM IN SPAIN. HOWEVER, SIGNIFICANT INCIDENTS DID OCCUR (A) OUTSIDE STADIUM WHERE FRANCO ATTENDED A RALLY AND WHERE A CAR BOMB EXPLODED; (B) OUTSIDE MADRID CEMETERY WHERE A PEACEFUL SOCIALIST PSOE/UGT CEREMONY WAS BROKEN UP BY POLICE AND 60 SOCIALISTS ARRESTED; AND (C) NEAR VIGO WHERE A WORKER ON A BALCONY WAS ACCIDENTALLY KILLED WHEN A POLICEMAN FIRED INTO AIR TO DISPERSE A CROWD. END SUMMARY.

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1. ON MAY 1 A BOMB EXPLODED IN A CAR OUTSIDE MADRID STADIUM WHERE GENERAL AND MRS. FRANCO, PRINCE JUAN CARLOS AND PRINCESS SOPHIA, AND MOST OF CABINET WERE WATCHING GYMNASTICS AND FOLKLORE EXHIBITION PUT ON EACH MAY 1 BY SPANISH SYNDICAL ORGANIZATION (SSO). BOMB WAS IN A STOLEN CAR PARKED BY SIDE OF STADIUM. ALTHOUGH CAR WAS DESTROYED BY EXPLOSION, WHICH OCCURRED AT 9:30 P.M. WHILE 80,000 SPECTATORS WERE INSIDE STADIUM WATCHING RALLY, THERE WERE NO INJURIES. EXPLOSION TOOK PLACE NEAR STADIUM ENTRANCE WHERE FRANCO AND PARTY HAD ENTERED 20 MINUTES EARLIER.

2. ELSEWHERE IN MADRID ONLY SCATTERED INCIDENTS OCCURRED. APPEALS FOR A BOYCOTT OF MADRID MARKETS AND OF MADRID'S PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM ON APRIL 30 WENT UNHEEDED. SOCIALIST PSOE AND UGT ATTEMPTED TO STAGE A LARGE, BUT ORDERLY, CEREMONY AT TOMB OF PABLO IGLESIAS, FOUNDER OF PSOE PARTY AND UGT TRADE UNION, IN MADRID'S CIVIL CEMETERY (REF A). POLICE, HOWEVER, FOR FIRST TIME ANYONE CAN REMEMBER, CLOSED CIVIL CEMETERY TO PUBLIC AND ORDERED ASSEMBLED PSOE-UGT MEMBERS TO DISPERSE. WHEN PSOE/UGT MILITANTS BEGAN TO STAGE THEIR CEREMONY ANYWAY OUTSIDE CEMETERY WALL, POLICE BROKE UP GATHERING AND ARRESTED SOME 60 OF THEM INCLUDING AT LEAST ONE PSOE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER, FRANCISCO BUSTELLO, WHO ALONG WITH SOME 17 OTHERS REMAINS IN CARABANCHEL PRISON. (WHILE PSOE/UGT'S ABORTED PEACEFUL CEMETERY DEMONSTRATION WAS BEING ATTEMPTED MAY 1, A SMALL PSOE/UGT DELEGATION WAS IN LISBON PARTICIPATING IN MAY 1 FESTIVITIES THERE, AND A UGT DELEGATION LED BY MADRID UGT LEADER PABLO CASTELLANO AND BY BILBAO WORKER LEADER NICOLAS REDONDO WAS IN BRUSSELS BEING RECEIVED BY EC COMMISSIONER CHEYSON AND BY ETUC.)

3. MAY DAY'S ONLY FATALITY WAS IN VIGO, WHERE A WORKER WAS ACCIDENTALLY KILLED BY A GUARDIA CIVIL IN ATTEMPTING TO BREAK UP A SMALL EXTREMIST DEMONSTRATION. ON MAY 2 A FUNERAL ATTENDED BY 1,000 WORKERS WAS HELD AND VARIOUS ONE AND TWO-HOUR SYMPATHY STRIKES WERE HELD IN VIGO FACTORIES ON MAY 2 AND 3.

4. MOST ACTIVE AROUND MAY 1 WAS BARCELONA AREA, WHERE THERE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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WERE VARIOUS ATTEMPTS AT DEMONSTRATIONS WHICH WERE BROKEN UP BY POLICE, AND SOME MOLOTOV COCKTAIL ATTACKS ON BUSINESS AND GOVT ESTABLISHMENTS. ELSEWHERE THINGS WERE RELATIVELY QUIET, EXCEPT FOR A MOLOTOV COCKTAIL INCIDENT IN PAMPLONA, AND ANOTHER VICTIMLESS CAR-BOMB INCIDENT IN GALDACANO OUTSIDE BILBAO.

5. COMMENT: DESPITE ABOVE INCIDENTS, MAY DAY AND SUCCEEDING

WEEKEND WAS ONE OF CALMEST IN RECENT YEARS, EXCEPT FOR ACCIDENTAL DEATH IN VIGO. ALTHOUGH QUIETER IN TERMS OF STRIKES AND DEMONSTRATIONS, HOWEVER, IT WAS MARKED BY WHAT MIGHT BE A DISTURBING NEW TREND TOWARDS INCREASED USE OF CAR-BOMBS AND MOLOTOV COCKTAILS. PERHAPS MOST SIGNIFICANT, HOWEVER, WAS CAR BOMB EXPLOSION OUTSIDE STADIUM WHERE FRANCO WAS ATTENDING SSO RALLY. HAD CAR BOMB EXPLODED HALF HOUR EARLIER WHEN MASSES OF PEOPLE WERE ENTERING STADIUM, IT WOULD HAVE PROBABLY CAUSED SUBSTANTIAL INJURIES AND EVEN PERHAPS LOSS OF LIFE. DESPITE SUBSTANTIAL ROUTINE SECURITY MEASURES BECAUSE OF PRESENCE OF FRANCO, BOMB-LADEN CAR WAS ABLE TO BE PLACED WITH APPARENT EASE AND WITHOUT AROUSING SUSPICION IN HEAVILY GUARDED LOCATION.

6. PREVENTION BY POLICE OF PEACEFUL PSOE/UGT MAY 1 CEREMONY AND ARREST OF PSOE/UGT MILITANTS AND LEADERS WAS ALSO HIGHLY SIGNIFICANT. POLICE HAD NEVER INTERFERED WITH SMALL PSOE/UGT COMMEMORATIVE GATHERINGS AT IGLESIAS' TOMB ON MAY DAY IN PREVIOUS YEARS. THIS EPISODE APPEARS TO HAVE EFFECTIVELY GIVEN LIE TO A CURRENT CAMPAIGN BY PSOE/UGT'S DETRACTORS, NOTABLY INCLUDING COMMUNIST-MANIPULATED JUNTA DEMOCRATICA, ALLEGING THAT PSOE AND UGT HAVE TACIT BLESSING OF GOVT AND ARE BENEFITTING FROM GOVT TOLERANCE, WHILE MEMBERS OTHER OPPOSITION GROUPS ARE SUFFERING FROM GOVT REPRESSION, ADDITIONALLY IT DEMONSTRATES THAT GOVT IS SUFFICIENTLY NERVOUS ABOUT ANY ACTIVITIES BY OPPOSITION GROUPS TO HAVE TAKEN ON SOCIALIST PSOE/UGT, A CLANDESTINE PARTY AND TRADE UNION WHICH WITHIN PAST TWO MONTHS HAVE RECEIVED PUBLIC PLEDGES OF SUPPORT FROM SWEDEN'S OLAF PALME, GERMANY'S WILLY BRANDT, AND FRANCE'S MITTERAND (REF B), DESPITE ANGRY REACTIONS GOVT'S HARSH MAY 1 TREATMENT OF PSOE/UGT MAY AROUSE ABROAD. LASTLY PSOE/UGT ARRESTS, HOWEVER, MAY BENEFIT PSOE AND UGT BY BOOSTING THEIR STANDING INSIDE SPAIN.

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